

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00867 181338Z

47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

/058 W

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R 181245Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1742

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0867

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, QA

SUBJ: REPORTS THAT DEPOSED RULER OF QATAR TO RETURN FROM EXILE

1. THERE HAVE BEEN RECURRING REPORTS OVER PAST WEEKS THAT SHAYKH AHMAD BIN ALI AL THANI, DEPOSED AS AMIR OF QATAR IN 1972, AND WHO HAS BEEN LIVING IN EXILE IN DUBAI, WILL RETURN. ACCORDING ONE LOCAL SOURCE, SHAYKH AHMAD WILL BE GIVEN AN "HONORARY" POSITION AND HIS RETURN WILL BE PART OF LONG TALKED ABOUT GOQ REORGANIZATION TO INCLUDE DESIGNATION OF CROWN PRINCE AND FILLING OF VACANT CABINET POSTS OF JUSTICE AND EDUCATION. WE ARE TOLD THAT SAUDIS AND SHAYKHS ZAYID AND RASHID HAVE ENCOURAGED AMIR OF QATAR, SHAYKH KHALIFA BIN HAMAD AL THANI, TO PERMIT RETURN OF SHAYKH AHMAD AS PART OF GENERAL TIDYING UP OF INTER-FAMILY AND OTHER DISPUTES IN GULF.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS THAT KHALIFA HAS LITTLE TO GAIN FROM SHAYKH AHMAD'S RETURN, THE WAYS OF GULF ARABS REMAIN MOSTLY INSCRUTABLE AS REGARDS THESE FAMILY MATTERS. AHMAD CERTAINLY POSES LITTLE OR NO THREAT TO KHALIFA SINCE HE WAS
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PAGE 02 DOHA 00867 181338Z

DISPOSED BY FAMILY CONSENSUS BECAUSE OF HIS INABILITY TO

HANDLE QATAR'S GROWING AFFLUENCE, AND KHALIFA HAS PROVED HIS
RECOGNIZED SUPERIORITY OVER AHMAD DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS.
AT SAME TIME, AHMAD WAS GENERALLY POPULAR AND UNOPPRESSIVE
RULER AND KHALIFA'S MAGNANIMITY IN PERMITTING HIS RETURN
WOULD PROBABLY PLEASE MOST QATARIS.
PAGANELLI

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